

## BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

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### MINUTES BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION MEETING SEPTEMBER 15, 2005 LAKE TAHOE

#### BOARD OF FORESTRY MEMBERS PRESENT:

Stan Dixon, Chairman  
Kirk Marckwald, Co Chair  
Gary Ryneerson  
Mark Bosetti  
David Nawi

#### BOARD OF FORESTRY MEMBERS ABSENT:

Ronald Nehring

#### BOARD STAFF:

George Gentry, Executive Officer  
Eric Huff, Executive Officer, Foresters Licensing  
Chris Zimny, Regulations Coordinator  
Laura Estrada, Staff Services Analyst

#### DEPARTMENTAL STAFF:

Dale Geldert, Director, Forestry and Fire Protection  
Mark Stanley, Chief Deputy Director, Forestry and Fire Protection  
Jim Wright, Assistant Deputy Director, Forestry and Fire Protection Operations  
Bill Snyder, Deputy Director, Resource Management, Forestry and Fire Protection  
Duane Shintaku, Assistant Deputy Director, Forest Practice, Forestry and Fire Protection  
Dennis Hall, Chief, Forest Practice, Forestry and Fire Protection  
Chris Browder, Deputy Chief, Forest Practice, Forestry and Fire Protection  
Giny Chandler, Chief Counsel, Forestry and Fire Protection

#### CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Dixon called the September 2005 meeting of the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection to order.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chairman Dixon asked for Board approval of the July minutes.

**09-15-2**-Member Nawi moved to approve the July minutes with the exception of a few minor editorials. Member Bosetti seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

Mr. Bruce Reeves, Board Counsel, went over some items from Executive Session.

Mr. Eric Huff, Executive Officer, Foresters Licensing, announced the Board's approval of two RPF reinstatements: Richard Dragseth, RPF 325; Jeffery Lindsey, RPF 2481.

## **CONSENT CALENDAR**

There was nothing to report.

## **REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN**

Chairman Dixon thanked Unit Chiefs Tony Clarabut, Nevada-Yuba-Placer Unit and Bill Holmes, Amador-El Dorado Unit on the field trip on various sites regarding fuel reduction. Chairman Dixon said the field trip was highly informative.

## **RESOURCE PROTECTION COMMITTEE**

Member Bosetti went over the discussion from the Committee meeting on SB1369 and proposed rule language regarding a 45-day notice for Board approval.

**09-15-17**-Member Bosetti made a motion to propose rule language on a 45-day notice for Board approval. He indicated that he is hopeful that we can make a reasonable regulation that complies with the intent of legislation, provides the public with guidance on how to implement the changed law and gives the Department ample opportunity to enforce the regulation. He reported that there is going to be a need for significant public education involved with this regulation. Member Rynearson seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Mr. Chris Zimny, Regulations Coordinator reported that Board Member Nehring was insistent throughout the last month that we try to resolve an issue that was brought up to him regarding San Diego County and the implementation of Fire Clearing Rules. In summary, there was a Multi-Species Conservation Plan similar to state law HCP's. Mr. Zimny also addressed the fact that other local permits may be required.

Chairman Dixon reported that it is clear that at the Public Hearing, we are going to hear this issue as well as others. The Chairman met with the Director, Chief Wright, Unit staff, and local Fire Chiefs (Tahoe) and these issues were raised. San Bernardino and other areas have the same concern. Chairman Dixon hopes that at public hearing, those remaining issues will be relatively easy to incorporate.

Member Nawi suggested that we try to minimize any conflict with resource agencies, that in the 45-day period, we can consult with both Fish & Wildlife and California Department of Fish & Game so we can come to a position that they would agree upon about the relation of the two efforts.

## **FOREST PRACTICE COMMITTEE (FPC)**

Member Rynearson reported that the Committee met yesterday morning and had a unanimous vote on a second emergency to the Lake Tahoe Exemption, which is identical to the current emergency that expires on October 19, 2005. He also reported that the committee is in the process of developing language for the 45-day permanent rule, which will take about two more months before the language is resolved. He also reported that the committee is working on streamlining the process that would enable all exemptions through TRPA.

**09-15-17**-Member Rynearson made a motion to pass the second emergency notice. Member Nawi seconded the motion and all were in favor.

## **DISCUSSION REGARDING A PROPOSED LAND GIFT IN CASPAR CREEK TO JACKSON DEMONSTRATION STATE FOREST. POSSIBLE ACTION ITEM: THE BOARD MAY, BY RESOLUTION, RECOMMEND TO THE DIRECTOR ACCEPTANCE OF THE GIFT (PRC 4701).**

Mr. George Gentry, Executive Officer, Board of Forestry, went over the proposed land gift in Caspar Creek.

**09-15-14**-Member Marckwald made a motion to approve and recognize that the Board of Forestry supports the Director's acceptance of this gift of land to be added to Jackson Demonstration State Forest. Member Bosetti seconded the motion and all were in favor.

## **PROFESSIONAL FORESTERS EXAMINING COMMITTEE (PFEC)**

Mr. Eric Huff, Executive Officer, Foresters Licensing, requested the Boards approval on the following withdrawal: Richard Dragseth, RPF 325.

**09-15-13** Member Nawi made a motion to approve the Withdrawal. Member Bosetti seconded the motion and all were in favor.

## **HEARING: THE BOARD WILL CONSIDER ADOPTION OF THE PROPOSED RULE LANGUAGE FOR ROAD MANAGEMENT PLAN, 2005 (RMP). THIS PROPOSED RULE WAS ISSUED FOR 45-DAY NOTICE ON MAY 27, 2005 AND THE PUBLIC HEARING NOTICED FOR CONTINUANCE ON AUGUST 18, 2005**

Member Rynearson reported that the Board has reviewed the proposed rule language for the Road Management Plan, 2005 and at this time are withdrawing the package from further consideration.

**09-15-12**-Member Rynearson made a motion to withdrawal the proposed rule language for the Road Management Plan, 2005 from further consideration and to formally close the hearing and refer back to Committee. Member Nawi seconded the motion and all were in favor.

## **REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR**

Director Geldert made a presentation on the status of the Action Plan for the Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission. The Director distributed binders to all Board members.

The Director reported that the Governor would be looking at the Action Plan and also looking at the Department to bring an Ad hoc Committee together. The director believes that this Committee will be a long-term item.

Chief Wright went over the recommendations that the Commission made. He explained that the group first prioritized 48 recommendations. They were prioritized by first, multi jurisdictional recommendations, second, State recommendations and third, Federal recommendations.

Member Nawi and Member Markwald asked about communication issues.

Chief Wright said that the issue is highly important, and significant progress has been made in improving the system.

The Director said that the Committee will be meeting a couple times a year and he will give updates at the Board meetings.

Director Geldert went over the reorganization of CDF. He reported that they would be addressing the changing needs of fire services of California. These changes will affect all four operating divisions of CDF. These divisions will meet as necessary. Director Geldert said that CDF is a military organization and needs to run towards a military organization. CDF needs to have standards and values. The Director has asked each division to reorganize and address the operational needs of each organization.

Chief Wright went over the regional issues and the organizational maps in the binders.

Director Geldert went over the Region Chiefs for the four regions.

Member Bosetti asked if there were current vacancies due to the shifting of positions.

The Director said that there were some vacancies.

Member Nawi commended the Director and Chief Wright on the job they have done on the Blue Ribbon Commission.

Chairman Dixon thanked the Director and Chief Wright on their presentation of the Blue Ribbon Commission.

#### **REPORT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, MR. BRUCE KRANZ, COUNTY SUPERVISOR, PLACER/TAHOE:**

Mr. Kranz did a presentation on catastrophic wildfire issues and distributed a handout to all Board members. The Placer Board of Supervisors is requesting the Board to support two requests they have made to the California's Federal Delegation. First, an endorsement of a Fire Protection and Forest Restoration Act for national forests that includes a fuel break-restoration strategy because it is the most effective way to save lives and property from catastrophic wildfires and restore health and diversity to the forests.

Mr. Kranz also asked the Board to endorse an Emergency Reforestation Act to expedite salvaging fire-killed trees and replanting burned areas on national forest in order to reverse the cumulative loss of forest caused by unnecessary and costly restrictions.

**REPORT OF THE USDA FOREST SERVICE, TAHOE NATIONAL FOREST, JANINE CLAYTON, ACTING FOREST SUPERVISOR, LAKE TAHOE BASIN MANAGEMENT UNIT**

Ms. Janine Clayton, Acting Forest Supervisor, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, went over Fuels treatments and Wildfire Risk Reduction in the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit and distributed handouts to all Board members. Ms. Clayton gave a local perspective on what is going on in the Lake Tahoe Basin area.

Ms. Clayton reported that fuels reduction is the essential starting point for the parallel objective of enhancing forest health conditions, habits and watershed quality.

She also went over a summary of fuels reduction accomplishments.

Member Bosetti asked Ms. Clayton about the treatments used on prescribed fires.

Ms. Clayton advised that she would report back with answers to Member Bosetti's question, as she did not have it readily available.

**REPORT OF THE TAHOE REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY, COE SWOBE, AND JERRY DION, SENIOR PLANNER, TRPA**

Mr. Coe Swobe went over regulations regarding stream zones. The governing Board of TRPA is trying to address the fire issue by the following:

1. Avoidance of Catastrophic Fires
2. Governing agencies streamlining regulations.
3. Removal of RPA tree limitations.

The governing Board has passed a resolution on tree removal projects and has passed a resolution to communicate with the public on catastrophic fires.

Mr. Swobe thanked the Board on all efforts that have been done to protect Lake Tahoe.

Mr. Jerry Dion, Senior Planner, TRPA, went over the fire planning issues with TRPA. He also went over State Responsibility Areas and Basin Fires.

Mr. Dion went over air quality and said they are attempting to remove as much biomass as possible. Fuel is a health and safety issue.

Mr. Dion went over streamlining and permitting. He said that doing work in the area is difficult. The focus is on the forest restoration. He commented that the wildfire protection plan will put these projects together and will need CDF's involvement.

Mr. Dion reported that on the State Responsibility areas they are hoping the Board will be able to lead on these issues. They are requesting leadership and support from the Board. TRPA does not have the authority that the Board and CDF have.

**POLICY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (PMC)**

Co Chair Marckwald reported that Mr. Huff would be preparing the final draft letter to the County Board of Supervisors on the Joint Policy on Hardwoods.

**09-15-17-** Co Chair Marckwald made a motion to approve the letter to the Board of Supervisors in support of further dialogue with county governments on the subject of oak woodlands conservation. Member Nawi seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

**FOREST PRACTICE COMMITTEE (FPC) (continuance from earlier discussion on the Committee)**

Member Ryneerson reported that a letter was prepared by Mr. Eric Huff to the State board of Equalization on revision of the Board of Equalization (BOE) Timber Harvest Values Manual and to consider yield tax relief for those whose operations consist solely of fuel hazard reduction. The Board members have reviewed the letter and changes have been made.

**09-15-17-**Member Ryneerson made a motion that the letter be sent to the State Board of Equalization for their review and consideration. Member Bosetti seconded the motion and all were in favor.

**REPORT OF THE UNIT CHIEFS TONY CLARABUT, NEVADA-YUBA PLACER UNIT AND BILL HOLMES, AMADOR-EL DORADO UNIT**

Unit Chief Tony Clarabut, Nevada-Yuba Placer Unit gave a PowerPoint presentation on Fuels Reduction. A handout was distributed to all Board members.

The presentation from Chief Clarabut was primarily focused on Fuel Reduction Projects in the Unit's three primary Counties of responsibility, which are Nevada, Yuba, and Placer Counties. The prefire effort and implementation of projects are adapted to what best suits the communities in collaboration with their local effort. Chief Clarabut gave a description of the various projects within each county.

Chief Clarabut went over the following challenges to continued project success:

- Maintenance of completed projects
- Funding for new projects
- CEQA
- Need to find added value in material removed
- Loss of forest industry infrastructure
- Lack of resource management professionals within CDF who can focus on forest health issues.

Unit Chief Bill Holmes, Amador-El Dorado Unit, gave a presentation on his Unit and distributed binders to all Board members. Chief Holmes introduced his staff to the Board members.

Chief Holmes went over the role of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection in the Lake Tahoe Basin. He also went over the Amador-El Dorado Unit Fire Management Plan and the Amador-El Dorado Unit project summaries.

**TAHOE TREE REMOVAL PERMIT STREAMLINING: CHRIS ZIMNY, REGULATIONS COORDINATOR, BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION, THOMAS SUK, LAHONTAN RWQCB**

Mr. Chris Zimny, Regulations Coordinator, did a PowerPoint presentation on Promoting Fuel Hazard Reduction in the Lake Tahoe Region. Mr. Zimny distributed handouts on his presentation to all Board members.

Mr. Zimny went over streamlining activity in Lake Tahoe and future needs and action items that may need to be addressed. Additionally, Mr. Zimny went over common goals, current BOF regulatory efforts and future needs and solutions.

Mr. Zimny summarized the following:

- Focus on common environmental goals
- Take action, not duplicate reporting
- PRC 4291 Implementation
- Remove regulatory impediments
- Coordinated plan
- Work with all landowners
- Pilot project on State Lands

Mr. Thomas Suk, Lahontan RWQCB discussed Pilot Projects on State Lands.

#### **REPORT OF THE CALIFORNIA OAK MORTALITY TASK FORCE (COMTF)**

The California Oak Mortality Task Force handout was included in the Board binders for all Board members.

#### **REPORT OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEES**

##### **CALIFORNIA FOREST PEST COUNCIL**

Nothing to report.

##### **RANGE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RMAC)**

Mr. Jeff Stephens, went over the work that has been done on the Vegetation Management Program, (VMP).

Mr. Stephens reported that the Range Management Advisory Committee (RMAC), held their meeting last month in South Lake Tahoe with the Lahontan Water Board. He thanked the State Water Board for their attendance. The testimony received was very helpful. RMAC will be taking up more future activities.

##### **MONITORING STUDY GROUP (MSG)**

Mr. George Gentry distributed the Board of Forestry Monitoring Study Group Update for July 2005 to all Board members and went over this handout.

The next MSG meeting is scheduled for September 22, 10:00 a.m., in CDF Shasta-Trinity Unit Headquarters, Emergency Command Center Conference Room, Redding. The following topics will be discussed in the meeting: Technical Subcommittee/Implementation and Strategic Plan.

##### **PROFESSIONAL FORESTERS EXAMINING COMMITTEE (PFEC) (continuance from earlier discussion)**

Mr. Eric Huff announced that the Professional Foresters Examining Committee would be meeting on September 22, 2005, in the Resources building. On October 7, 2005, they will be conducting exams in San Luis Obispo, Sacramento and Arcata. At this time they have thirty applicants.

#### **DISCUSSION REGARDING THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (DEIR) AND MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR JACKSON DEMONSTRATION STATE FOREST (JDSF). POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS: THE BOARD MAY PROVIDE DIRECTION TO DEPARTMENT STAFF REGARDING THE PREPARATION OF THE DEIR.**

Mr. Russ Henly, Assistant Deputy Director, Resource Protection and Improvement, reported that the EIR team has been working hard on the last two sections of report, which are cumulative effects and wildlife habitat. Mr. Henly will be giving this to the Executive Officer of the Board on Friday, September 16, 2005. The full Board will receive the Administrative Draft for the October meeting and should be ready for full review by the November Board meeting.

#### **STATE NURSERY PROGRAM UPDATE**

Mr. Russ Henly, Assistant Deputy Director, Resource Protection and Improvement announced that he had given an update at the Quincy Board meeting on consolidating the nursery in Davis. One of the alternatives chosen was Placerville. It was decided that it was not the best option and have decided to keep the nursery in Davis.

#### **REPORT OF THE SENSITIVE WATERSHEDS NOMINATIONS REVIEW COMMITTEE (SWNRC)**

Nothing to report.

#### **REPORT OF THE REGULATIONS COORDINATOR**

Mr. Chris Zimny, Regulations Coordinator, announced that the October performance based rules package will be emailed to all Board members. A hearing is scheduled for the October Board meeting on SRA Map amendments.

#### **REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

Mr. George Gentry, Executive Officer for the Board, announced the new Executive Assistant, Dawn La Franco. Ms. La Franco's start date was September 1, 2005. She comes from the Governor's Office of Emergency Services.

**PUBLIC FORUM:** Members of the public may address the Board on any topic within its jurisdiction not otherwise on the agenda. Submittal of written comments is encouraged to ensure that all comments will be included in the record before the Board. Please be prepared to summarize comments to three minutes in length, or otherwise at the discretion of the Chairman.

#### **PUBLIC FORUM**

Mr. Pete Thill, Forester, reported that he lives in Plumas County and needs help. As a small landowner, he would like to see performance-based initiative. He would like agencies to focus what he has done instead of the process. He requested that the Board and CDF keep the "little guy" in mind.

Mr. William Copren, Copren Forest Resources, said that he resides on 700 acres on timberland. He is increasingly concerned as timber harvest plans (his most recent one on 114 acres), are running over 100 pages. He feels he is losing control over how to manage for wildlife habitat.

Mr. Richard Gienger, announced that the Buckeye Forest Project is having a 2-day workshop on November 3 & 4, 2005. It will focus on three things: 1) what's it going to take to get a longer THP? 2) What's it going to take to get a larger NTMP? 3) What will it take to implement a pilot project that will both perform watershed analysis and act as a large scale PTEIR?

He believes that CDF, Department of Fish & Game and Water Quality are interested in pursuing this. A Community Forest meeting will be held on October 27<sup>th</sup> or 28<sup>th</sup>, 2005. Venue will be somewhere in Humboldt County. It is anticipated that Jim Reinhardt is going to be a featured speaker.



## **NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Co Chair Marckwald reported that he had a visit from "ECO Trust", regarding working with forestry entities. Co Chair Marckwald encouraged them to get with the Executive Officer of the Board for a possible presentation to the Board regarding Regulatory Relief.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The Chairman adjourned the September 15, 2005 meeting of the Board.

Respectfully submitted,

ATTEST:

George D. Gentry  
Executive Officer

Stan Dixon  
Chairman

Copies of the attendance sheets can be obtained from the Board Office.